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SECRET

Burma 12.70
x Situation Rpt
R & A -

BURMA

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

OSS, R & A, NEW DELHI

28 February, 1944

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033/R&A New Delhi Office

3 March 1944

TO: Brigadier General William J. Donovan

FROM: Lt. Col. Robert B. Hall RBH

Please find herewith a copy of our Situation Report No. I, Burma. The map which is to accompany the report will follow within the next few days.

I am forwarding this report in unfinished form, because I wanted it in your hands when the area in question assumes increased activity.

Lt. Charles Stelle, R&A, has reported to General Wingate and is now with him at Imphal.

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Enclosure 13,970
to Situation Report

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OSS/R&A New Delhi Office

4 March 1944

TO: Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Director of Strategic Services,
OSS, Washington

FROM: Lt. Col. Robert B. Hall,
Chief, R&A Branch,
OSS, CBI/SEAC

RBH

Please find enclosed a copy of the map to accompany Situation Report No. I, Burma, which was forwarded under separate cover on 3 March 1944.

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OSS/NAA New Delhi Office

4 March 1944

TO: Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Director of Strategic Services,
OSS, Washington

FROM: Lt. Col. Robert B. Hall,
Chief, I&A Branch,
OSS, CBI/SEAC

Please find enclosed a copy of the map to accompany Situation Report No. 1, Burma, which was forwarded under separate cover on 5 March 1944.

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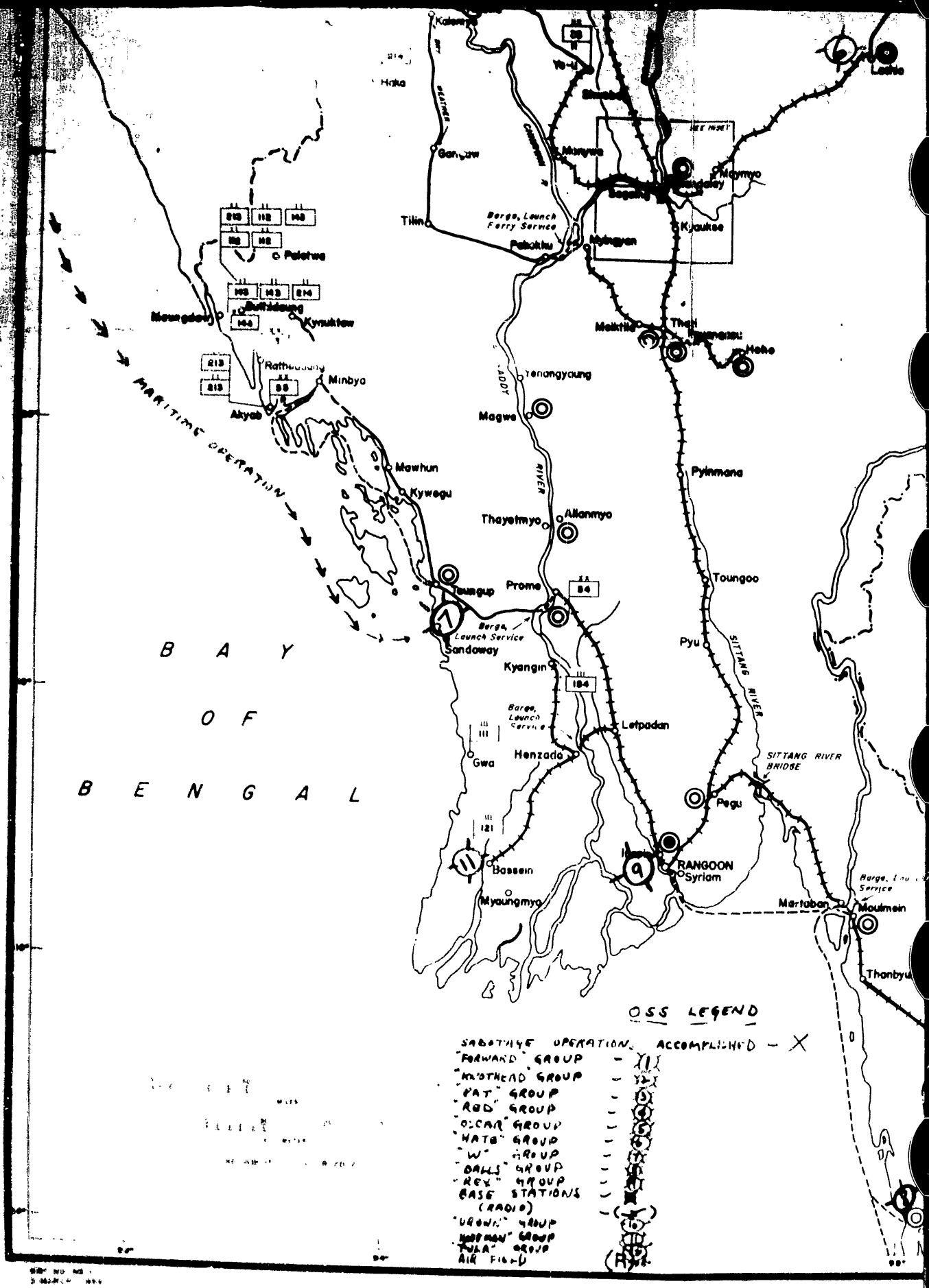

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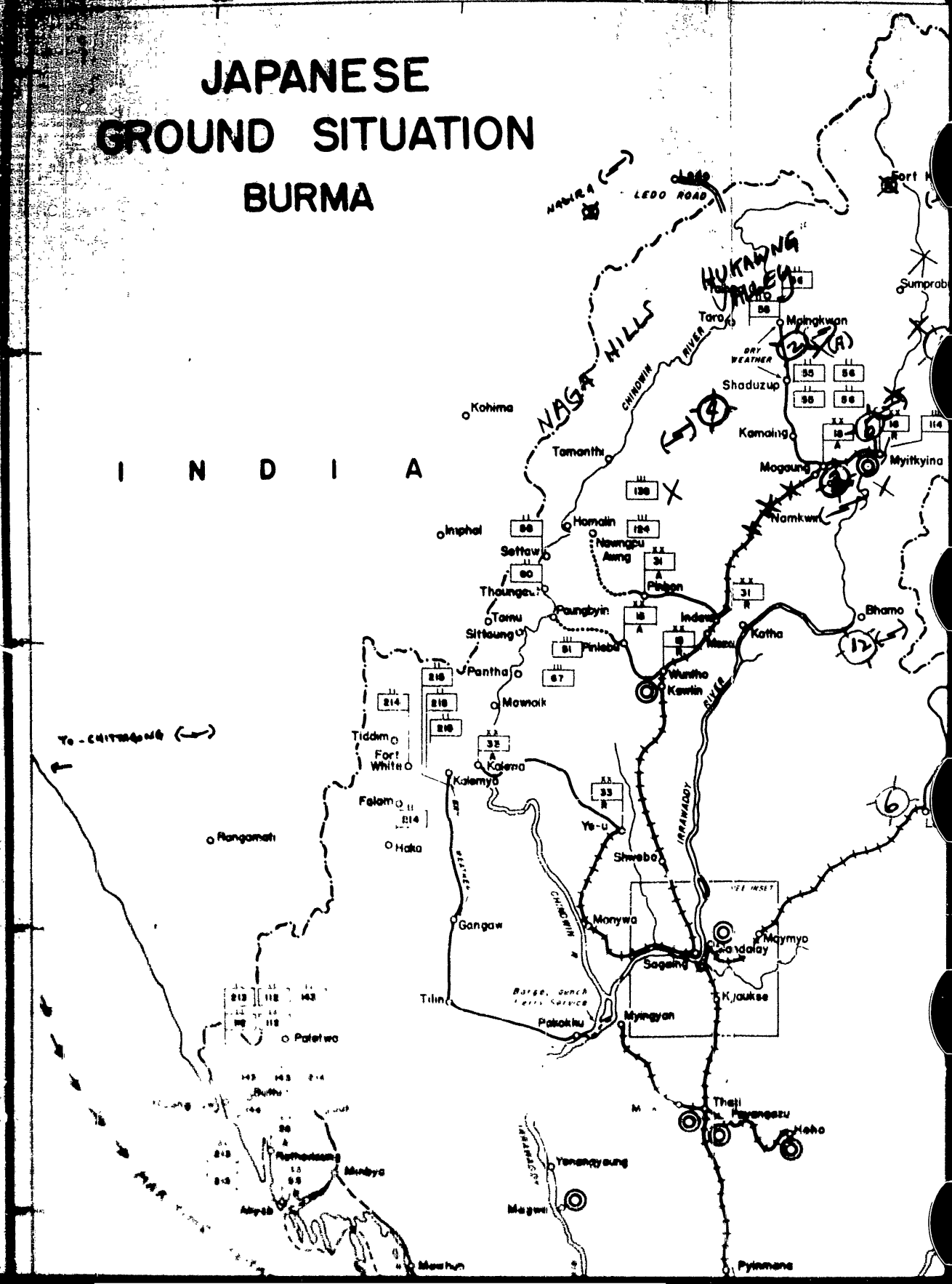
JAPANESE GROUND SITUATION

BURMA



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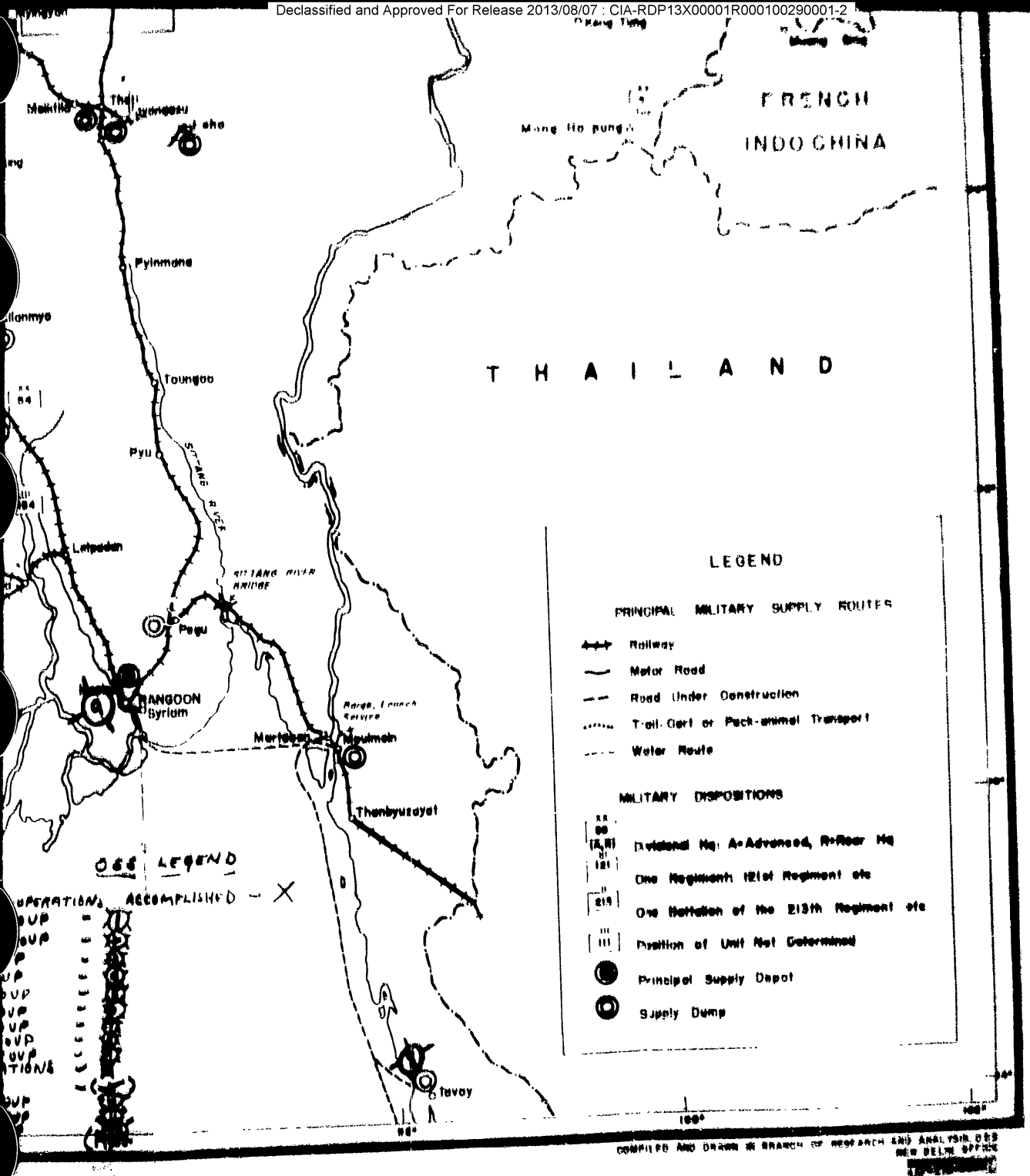

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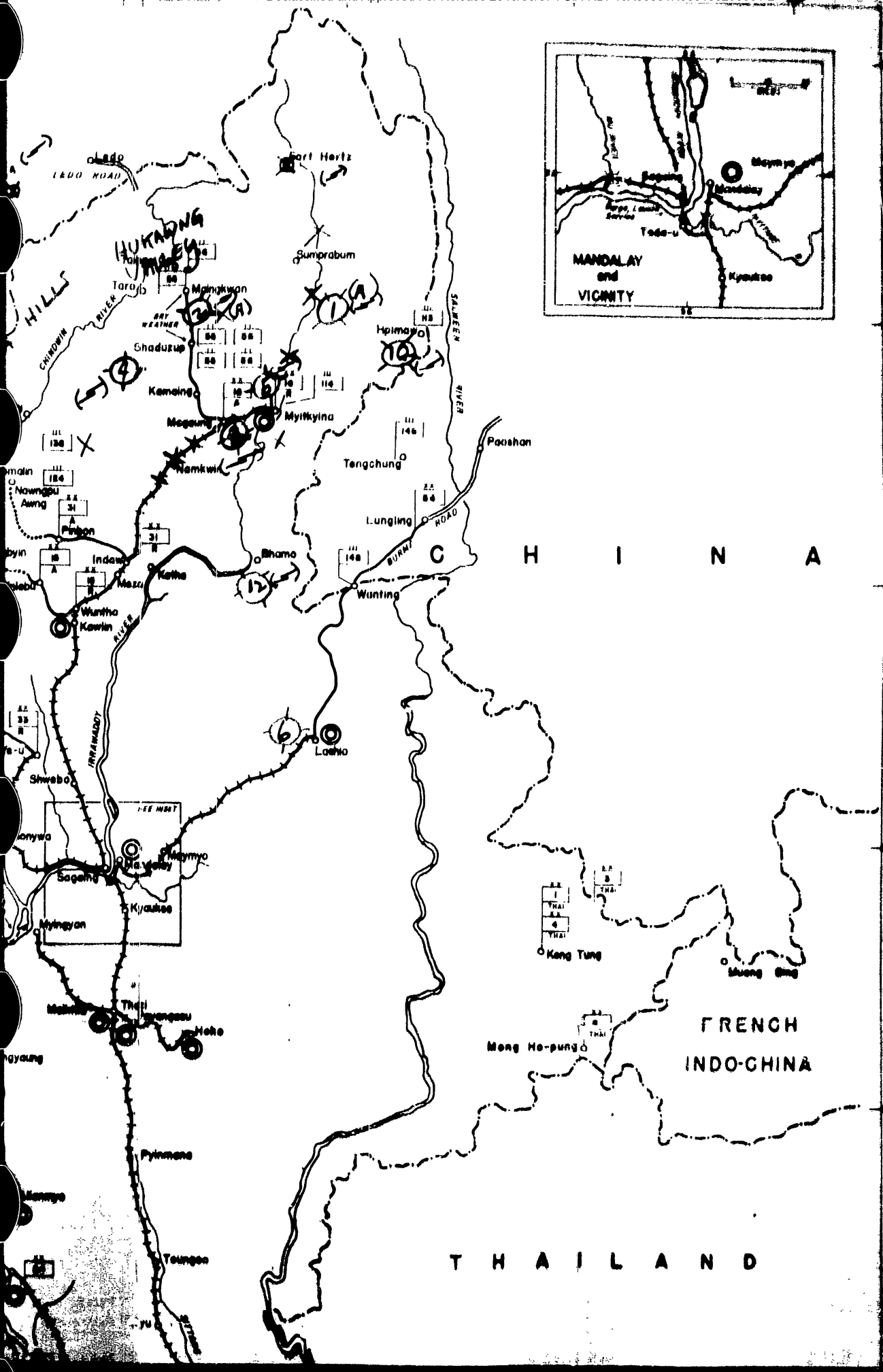

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Commanding General
U. S. Army Air Forces

26 May 1944

protection. The Kachin area particularly referred to extends from Fort Hertz, or Putao, (27.5-97.5) south to Ngwala (26.3-97.8) as far east as the Salween River.

5. We trust this information may be of some value to your forces operating in North Burma.

C. Edward Burton
Acting Director

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23 May 1944

TO: Commanding General,
U. S. Army Air Forces

FROM: Assistant Director,
Office of Strategic Services

SUBJECT: Information from Missionaries Concerning Kachin Hills Area - Burma

1. An oral report of 21 March 1944 has been received from Burma dealing with the journey of three [illegible] who had walked out on 21 January in the Kachin Hills area of Assam. The report was made by an Air Force officer, together with native agents. The pilot of the crew was Michael Kriegsman, rank [illegible] in plane #4[illegible], Burma.

2. In the report attention was called to the fact that the Kachins were starving because they were prevented from [illegible] in the area of the Kachins them with such as our native food, nor to sleep in their houses, nor even in their villages, but to live in the jungles and eat what the animals ate. These [illegible] the Kachin [illegible] as wounded.

3. If this contrary report is true. To make the [illegible] to be operating in that region. I personally think someone should tell the higher authorities in the AAF [illegible] to know what the Kachin [illegible] like. The people have this whole area pretty well organized and if they will tell them (the Kachins) they are Americans, there is only one chance in a thousand against their ever being brought to this [illegible] to be of any value. Of course, I don't say what is further north and how the natives there would act, but I unofficially know that [illegible] are in the Kachin hills at the present time and I personally believe that we have cleared the hills of Japanese, and if a landing [illegible] in the hills, he [illegible] by the whole population.

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it notes a number of the pro-Jap Burmans and the positions which they are holding under the Japs. The former P.C. and the former S.S.P. Tavoy are in the Jap prison camp at the Mergui station, while a Thakin whom they had jailed is now at last, the SSP, Tavoy, under the Japs. The position and status of the men should be reversed.

Mrs. P. S. Fishwick and small son who are in Dehra Dun, U.P., if permissible, should be notified that her husband, Mr. P. Fishwick, while still a P.O.W. is safe and was described as being the best dressed among the P.O.W.s.

If Mr. McColl's family can be notified thru the same official the members of his family would be glad to know about his safety at least.

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can be arranged in time.

In Tavoy side, I am ready to help as soon as weapons arrive. Now we are waiting for the chance to help. I will try to get reliable Karen men to serve, from D.C. downwards, if necessary. Of course we can't do well, but we are willing to help as much as possible.

I am waiting to meet the officers and soldiers of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force who are coming to save us.

Your Honour may make an inquiry about myself from Lt. Col. H. R. Pelly, I.A. who was the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Division before.

Herewith enclosed three letters from Major M. L. Nolan, Recruiting Office in Burma, Maymyo in 1937, and the Lt. Col., Officer-in-charge, the B.R.R. and R.C. Maymyo in 1940 to let you know that I have helped as much as possible and will be helping still when needed. You can make enquiry of me from Lt. Col. F.C. Fogarty, I.C.S and Lt. Col. H.R. Pelly, I.A. both former Commissioners of the Tenasserim Division, Moulmein.

****

Copy of the three letters are attached to the original.

****

This letter is important, and requires an answer, if one is permitted to be written in order to encourage the Karens who will have almost insurmountable difficulties, if they have resist the Japs for another rainy season.

Weight should be given to the request for arms.

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4. Ba Klaing

5.

6. Two township officers of Thayetchaung

7. U Lone Baw, ex Thein Win's father - Kanbaw.

These people may become rebel's leaders since their role lowers the thakins, had killed hundreds and thousands of Karens, who always side with the westerners. Most of these Thakins were from Tavoy and Mergui, and we'll not regret if Tavoy, Mergui and Palaw are destroyed. All the Karens except very few stay in the jungles, and those who stay in town are trying to get out now.

Due to the thakins, our missionaries and pastors as well as some other Karens are imprisoned, whereas I, myself, had very narrow escapes since I had to spend time and tricks. We are glad it's well known that we have just to pretend to please the Japs, fearing them. But we never like them a bit. We help and pray every day to be freed from their rule.

If Mergui is retaken, you may call my brother Maya Kaung to of Dubyinsohaung village, Palaw Township, Mergui District, to help you. He will try and get reliable men for service, and they will try their best to help in different ways. The Burmese people (pro-Japs) are ready to give trouble so that we, the Karens, will fight to the death in case it's necessary. The only thing needed is ammunition. Though hard, it's difficult for us, so we hope possible means

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naturally.

We get messages or leaflets from different places, and I shall be very much obliged if some leaflets are dropped in our village, too. At present, as everything is expensive, and working with the Japanese is useless, I and my children -- all busy with vegetable garden; watering the plants with hope everyday -- and look up with joy whenever the Royal Air Force comes passing overhead.

In case the wish is granted, the ammunitions may be sent to Shit Taung Gyi (Lin no Maw) where my man Saw Po May will be waiting. A Karen soldier or anyone who knows Burmese language well better come along in the submarine. Anyhow, that's not easy, so if your honour thinks it impossible, and the application is rejected, I beg of you to please reply. Saw Po May will be there on the 1st January instant.

We foresee that the Burmese Thakins who had been trying to ill treat us will rise up after the turning of the war tide in Burma. There will be revolts, so that we have to be always ready to help for the victory, as well as to protect ourselves.

Here are some of the names of some Thakins of Tavoy and Mergui:

1. U San Win, D.C. of Mergui
2. U Po Net, D.S.P. of Tavoy
3. Aa Thein Lin, Officer of Burma Defence Army, Rangoon

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From: Saw Ba La, K.T.H.

Kanyinchaung village, Kayyebaung Revenue Township, Kayy District.

To: The Chief Commanding Officer
Indian Ocean, or Far East Command, India.

Dated the 16th December 1944

Sir: I, Saw Ba La of Kanyinchaung village, Kayy District, most respectfully beg to inform your honour the following.

We have been suffering under the rule of the Japanese for about three years and on the 14th December we were gladly glad to hear the roaring sounds of the Royal Air Force, and the bombings as well as the cannons from different parts. We pray that the final victory will be soon.

I had sent a letter some time ago, asking for ammunition for the Karen villages (7 villages, 100 Rifles) and I wonder if the letter reached its destination. Since the monsoon set in, I kept a man to meet submarines or [illegible] at Ahit Taungyi (lin no maw) by the seaside (about 57 miles from Kayy by land) up till now. His name is Saw Po [illegible] very glad every time I get news from him.

About Kayy, I believe that your honour knows well, I [illegible] it is necessary to tell. Now, besides the former, [illegible] more men, women, and children were brought [illegible] till about November, relatives were allowed to send food, etc to the interneees, but now nobody is allowed to go, [illegible] ruthless Japanese, they'll have to work hard,

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[illegible] praying for the best, and with [illegible] love

Your old pupil,

[signed] Mary Dike Price

P.S. Our Girl Guides are waiting loyally. Anything we can do, [illegible] do? We are willing to serve too.

- - - - - - - - - -

Addressed to: Rev. W. D. Sutton (former principal of Morrow Karen High School, Tavoy) (Late Miss Hedges, Secretary in Burma)

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of the war, but what the future holds, Heaven alone knows. Anyway, once the white people land Burma, we'll try our best, though great or small, to support them. There are girls who are willing to fight like men, but they've got no opportunity.

By the way, if you happen to meet our Menton Dean, Miss E. K. Hunt, please send my best regards to her. Please tell her that I didn't get a chance to join the Women Auxiliary Force just before the Japs came in.

Our school piano is at the M.P. Office (Anne Hesseltine School). I tried to get it back, but they said was bought by the Americans, not with the Karen's money, so they won't give us back. Anne H. Hesseltine School organ is at Saya Pogyi's house, where Christians in Tavoy used to gather on Sundays. No church for them. Before a Japanese Military Administrator gave us Church of England, but later when he was gone, the Burmese Government took it and made it a school. Christians are mostly suspected and Karens are mostly arrested due to spies. But they are sure they'll be free one day and can be able to see you all again.

There's a road made across our school compound to the hospital. A wireless set is in Chi'a An Du's house, some ammunition in school, some clothes stored in school building for soldiers. Japs are very cunning. They'll stay all over the places in different corners.

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sitting for the exam; I was working in Namtu, Kyaukse (shipping line) once. Most of the staff are ex-RAF from C.N.M.B., High Speed, T.T.D, and ATC. John and William Kelly are both working in the B.T.K. John Kelly is a father now, with Jean Ross as a young wife.

You might have heard of how we've had narrow escapes for keeping spy. I had trick after trick over the years to make them mislead, and for that I got a bad name, but I'm not sorry, at least, I had saved my old father from such hesitations torture. But our old Thra Shwe Young was dead in jail, of which you might have heard. The Karens are naturally ill treated, so the Burmans are one of the enemies. Anyway, our Heavenly Father is with us, so through thick and thin, we'll try to go on. We pray each day that there will be a change soon, we can't ever be in peace, always expecting danger, danger, as they are always sitting eyes upon us. Even now, though we've won them a little bit to us, by tricks, we always feel that we are followed.

Talking of money and commodities, papers are used like nothing at all. When there is war, naturally the prices of commodities will rise. I found in College Economics was so difficult for me to understand, but now, through experience, I begin to taste the rise and fall of prices, and paper notes also, a little bit. On (at) your side too, there may be some scarcity, I think. Everyone is hoping for the end

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Kanyinchaung Village, Tawoy
29th November 1944

Dear Thra,

You may be surprised to see this unexpected note, and hope it will find you in the arms of health. We are all well, but hoping every day for the coming of old friends. I believe that you have heard all about our school teachers and pupils. All our teachers are away from the Japanese businesses, whereas some pupils are working, but very few. Most of the girls are away in the jungles. Minna, May Roo, New Paw, Kitty Thein and a few others are working in the Japanese firms and the Military Compound (our old school compound). May Roo and two or three others are working at Taungthonlon mines. Thramu Clara Loo is teaching at La Baw. All our teachers are well. Sweet Day is going to give birth, maybe next month.

We are sorry to hear of the death of our beloved Na Ma. Don't know whether that's true or not. Our school is very dirty and nearly all the buildings were made into firewood. I've been inside the school once, and it looked so dirty -- no chairs nor benches. Thra Streeter's School is better. I've been inside once, too. There also, no more benches. The upper floor is the sleeping rooms of the Japanese M.P. officers and the ground floor is made into offices. Most of the benches are inside the Municipal office building which is now the Japanese school. I've been learning Japanese for a few months there, just for show, and now return home without

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Please let me give you this information:

There are about 500 Japanese troops at Myitte resting around Mr. Mimma's bungalow. They are now repairing the Myitte-Sinbyudaing road. Another party of Japanese soldiers (a large number) is now on its way from Sinbyudaing to Myitte, repairing road too. both parties are now on halfway. This is a very recent movement. It started on the 26th Dec. 1944.

The enemy is now concentrating its troops in Kewey.

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Plea of the Loyal Karens or Kawy District to the Hon
Counsel of India.

1. We are and always will be loyal to our British Government and are expecting and longing for their return to us.

2. We are so hardly pressed on two sides, i.e. the Nipponese Military Government on the one side and the Burmens on the other that we are unable to help our British Government in spite of the fact our hearts are longing for a chance to be able to be of some help to our British Government.

3. We had a chance some time ago but the Burmens backed by the Nipponese Military Police so pressed our young men who took part in the act that they had to suffer cruel Japanese cruelling and some lost their lives in it; consequently, it turned out a failure. In helping our British Government we have lost our honoured and beloved leader, Rev. Shwe Yaung who died like a criminal in Insein Jail. Rev. Shwe Gan and a few of our young men are still in Insein Jail.

4. The Nipponese Military Police with the help of the Burmens are watching our community so closely that we must be always on the lookout in whatever movement we make.

5. In spite of all these burdens and hardships, we are and will be always loyal to you. We are earnestly praying and waiting for the time you promised us. Then only we will have our full chance to prove our loyalty to you.

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to help them. On account of this we do the best we can for them, because we remember and love us all. Our C.I. have, or do, this work [illegible] her. It has become very difficult for us, because we, harmis, are closely watched by the enemy people of many nationalities Poles, Indians, and Czech prisoners of war were sent to work upon the road, but the men arrested in Tavoy, some Dutch and some Australians remained in the wireless station; in all 102 remained in Tavoy. One European woman was released very recently because her husband is a Burman, and one old man died. In the rest their names were known to us, but the enemy searched our place and I dare not keep (the list) and tore all up. Not only adults but even the children expect you back very soon. Or, we shall reach destruction. (Or, we shall all be ruined.) It is unnecessary for us to tell you all. We see, now we have experienced well, persecution and all evil in this world."

****

The authors of this letter are not known exactly, but two Karen girls, Naw Minna and Naw Sweet Day, are the very probable writers of this letter, because they are known to have been helpful in trying to assist the prisoners of war, while they were permitted to slip food into them.

April 1, 1944.

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Dear Father or the Tavoy and Mergui Karens (Forces), [illegible]

In love, very much, and expecting you, we write and tell you about ourselves in a few words. We would like to tell you everything about ourselves but we fear, fear is over with us, night and day. The Karens (people) have suffered greatly. In the night we do not sleep well (or peacefully) in our houses. During the day we do not eat very well, or good. All your Taras (teachers), (pastors) try to earn their living in their own ways, such as cultivating fields (taungya farming), breeding and keeping chickens and animals, and as traders, merchants who buy and sell goods, and those who work for the enemy, because they are forced to do it and thru fear. People think wrongly about Karens when they think Karens work whole-heartedly for the enemy. Those Karens who may have been whole-heartedly for the enemy, we see, have repented in their hearts to the extent of turning against the enemy.

We heard about Ma Ma and we shed tears still and even in our dreams. Ma Ma was strong-hearted as W.O. (Girl soldier), we, the W.O., try to help soldiers who are in difficulty (or enduring hardships as P.O.W.) not half-heartedly, but whole-heartedly. The P.O.W. captured here have had their servants help them as best they could, but there remains the nine (6th and 3rd battalions of Burma Rifles), Indians (probably from the Burma frontier force)/Captain Sudan of the medical Corp and Karen soldiers. These have had no one

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OSS Form No. 609
(May 1, 1945)

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ROUTING SHEET

To be prepared by the first TSCO who receives a TOP SECRET document.

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ADDRESSED TO: WTD	
DOCUMENT DATE: 6 March 45	ACCESSION DATE: 19 March 45
DOCUMENT NO.: 16,466 COPY NO.:	OFFICE OR BRANCH: [illegible]
NO. OF PAGES: 1 ATTACHMENTS:	LOGGED BY: [illegible]

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FORM 1

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SIGNATURE RECORD SHEET

To be prepared by each TSCO upon receipt of a TOP SECRET document.

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Source: Gen Taylor Addressed to: WH D Document date: 6 March 63 Document No: 15,466 Copy No: No. of pages: 13 Attachments:	Accession No: D 073 638 Accession date: 19 March 63 Office or Branch: D Division Logged by: CP H

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2.		P Herbst	19/3	0915	CP H	19/3	0925
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[redacted]

[redacted]

Saw Pure, who had [redacted] the village of [redacted] the [redacted], [redacted] the village in the [redacted] to give them assistance. [redacted] John was in trouble [redacted] them from Pure and also from [redacted] Pure later admitted that he had [redacted] agents to Saw John. They explained that he had put false in Saw John for the reasons:

(1) That he had been in the service of the Government of the Burma Rifles; and

(2) That he had supplied the first group with [redacted].

Saw Pure, however, believed that Saw John must have been the person who made the report to the Japanese because he was the only other Karenni Tai agent who knew of the group's premises. Rumors have circulated that Saw John was richly rewarded by the Kempei Tai for this and that many people believe that he made the report to safeguard himself against Japanese retaliations for his having drawn the false map.

Soon after the wedding feast at Kindayaza, Saw Wallace and Saw Vincent, the two agents, were captured at Kindayaza and sent to Rangoon, together with three villagers who had been particularly active in assisting them.

Source reported that all three of these groups informed the Karen villagers from whom they obtained assistance that they were American agents and not British agents. Source has no other knowledge of their connections with any American agency.

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From that day on (sometime early in 1945) [illegible] was required by the Japanese to render assistance in [illegible] dealing with the Karens. What important was [illegible] orders by the Karens to do work for the Japanese [illegible] them.

It should be noted in this connection that it is the usual practice of Karens who have been pressed into the Japanese counter-espionage service to turn in monthly reports stating simple "nothing to report". Sometimes this exasperates the Japanese, but no serious consequences result. These agents receive no training from the Japanese. Saw Napoleon is a very tactful man and he has avoided further trouble with the Japanese.

Saw John meantime was being closely watched and he was told that he must do good work in atonement for having assisted the first Allied group of agents or serious personal consequences would result.

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to PAYITTA [illegible] was living in order to get his advice on what to do. He told Soapie he was sure the Kempei Tai would kill him if he returned without Rodericks and said that while he was at Kindayuse in the hands of the Kempei Tai the Japanese had killed another Burmese in his presence and then turned to him and said "You see that?" Soapie told Saw Johnson that he could not give him any advice on such a matter, and the result was that Saw Johnson escaped to Siam and has not since been heard of. He very wisely took the precaution of removing all of his friends and relatives with him so that the Japanese wouldn't have anyone to torture in their efforts to find out where he had gone.

SAW JOHN:

The Japanese decided that the signature 'Saw John' on the map of Tavoy must be the work of Saw Johnson, who had disappeared after they had sent him out to hunt for Rodericks. The result was that they spent considerable time hunting for Saw Johnson without running down any further clues. However, they eventually discovered that Saw John was the correct name of the man who had drawn the map, possibly by torturing members of the first group. Saw John knew the Kempei Tai were searching for him and hid in a Karen village.

SAW NAPOLEON:

Saw Napoleon is regarded as the Karen leader in the Tavoy District. He was president of the Tavoy Branch of the Karen National Association and has been since the Japanese occupation. He has always lived at Tavoy and it was widely known that whenever Saw John came to Tavoy he lived with Saw Napoleon, so the Kempei Tai threatened to torture Saw Napoleon if he would not produce Saw John. Saw Napoleon sent word to Saw John at his hiding place that he would have to give himself up, so Saw John came into Tavoy and went with Saw Napoleon to the Japanese Kempei Tai office. The Kempei Tai had told Saw Napoleon to inform Saw John that he would eventually be found in any event, and that he would be much better treated if he gave himself up.

The Kempei Tai told Saw John that he would not be harmed if he would act as a counter-espionage agent. His duties were to be simply to circulate around and listen to talk in the Karen villages. They told him he couldn't escape to Siam because he would be too closely watched.

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Source stated that two mistakes led to the eventual capture of the third group. The first was made by the members of the second group at Kyaukkyi when they informed some of the people at Kyaukkyi that another group was expected at Kindayaza. Subsequently these people were tortured and were forced to reveal this information to the Kempei Tai. Source thinks that a second mistake (and he was informed of this by Saw Kee and other Kindayaza villagers) was that Saw Wallace appeared too much in the public eye of Kindayaza. By this time they were using their radio set and were in communication with their home base.

There was a marriage feast in the village and Saw Pare, one of the Japanese appointed anti-espionage police, was present. This man was at first a member of the Civil Police and was then obliged by the Japanese to assume the duties of a special anti-espionage policeman, but actually he did not perform in that capacity. However, he was a village neighbor of Saw Wallace when he had lived at Meli on Tavoy Island prior to the Japanese occupation. As soon as he saw Wallace, he knew he was from India and must be acting as either a British or American agent. There was another anti-espionage police man in the neighborhood, a man named Saw John, an ex-soldier of the 6th Battalion Burma Rifles, who had taken part in the battle of the 35th mile at the time of the Japanese occupation. He had escaped at that time and later lived at the village of Yamazu (FO 320651, Sheet 95J). He had belonged to the Intelligence Section of the 6th Battalion and was very good at map reading and drawing. He had drawn a very good map of Tavoy Town, showing Japanese positions, and sent it to Rodericks of the first group. He made the mistake of signing his name and at the time that Rodericks' group was captured this map was among the documents which fell into the hands of the Japanese.

STORY OF SAW JOHNSON:

A man named Saw Johnson of Migyaunglaung (the second stop of the first group) had helped the first group by giving them arms which were among some of those formerly belonging to the British and hidden by Karen villagers. The Japanese had captured Saw Johnson when they were investigating the activities of the first group. They had told him to find Rodericks after the other three members of the first group had been captured on the basis that if he did so they would not punish him for what they considered the serious offense of granting arms to the Allied agents. He was given several days to hunt for Rodericks and report back to the Kempei Tai at Tavoy. Saw Johnson had been a student of our sources at the American Baptist Mission and so he proceeded from Tavoy

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[redacted]

The Japanese at first suspected only three men of the second group but ... [illegible] ... broken down yet having been captured by the Japanese. The Karen elders finally advised him to go [illegible] because they said he was not of any use to the allied forces without means of communication and ... [illegible] ... were torturing Karen elders to find out where he was, but the men followed their advice and surrendered.

Soon after the second group had been captured, Thaw Thang, the pastor at Ka-Ai, and three other Karens, were ... [illegible] ... pastor at Hill who had given shelter to the ... [illegible] ... tested by the Japanese and taken to Rangoon, where they were put in a concentration camp. There Thaw Thang died.

In February, 1944, while Thaw Ahwai Sen was still being held in Tavoy Town by the Kempei Tai, source heard reports that the pastor son, Rev Wallace had returned to the Tavoy District from India, and had been arrested. He had a commission, a young man called by the people Saw Vale. This man's name is believed by source to have been Jay Vincent. He was a Karen who had lived in Rangoon prior to the outbreak of war, at which time he had escaped to India.

These men arrived in Kindayana in February, 1944, and told the villagers that they had come by submarine to the Pelauk Kwain (Grid K - 14080 M), and had come ashore by rubber boat. They buried their equipment on the sea beach. Unbeknown to them, the landing had been observed by Burmese fishing boats so the submarine took all the fishermen aboard and sank them. (Note: This was the first time the people in Tavoy District had heard of submarines picking up fishermen and it resulted many Allied sympathizers have since been trying to get picked up but none have succeeded.) The two men walked to Kindayana from the beach.

In spite of previous warnings from the Kempei Tai that they would wipe out the entire village should they detect the offense of entertaining agents, the Kindayana people took the risk and to the sea coast to bring [illegible] ... [illegible] ... Soon after the arrival of this third group, the Japanese Kempei Tai, (Note: The people arrested by the Japanese for helping the first group were ... [illegible] ... Later, they were among those who ... [illegible] ... third group and they neglected to report the ... [illegible] ... to the Kempei Tai.)

[redacted]

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missionary work under the supervision of Dr. Gutma.

Source learned of the operations of this group from personal conversation with Thra Shwe Yaung. Thra Shwe Yaung also told source that either the second or third landing of Tavoy (Tenasserim doesn't remember which) was based on information sent back by this second group.

Early in January, 1944, one of the men from this second group contacted our source in Tavoy Town, probably on the advice of Thra Shwe Yaung. He asked for information about military installations in Tavoy Town and so source took him to the ammunition dump at the four-mile mark on the road from Tavoy to Myitta (the same as that shown in illustration No. 1) and around the nearby rubber estate.

This group also had contact with Karens living in the village of Da Yin Bin Shaung (Pt 780860, Sheet No. 5[illegible]). Saw Kin Maung, one of the villagers from this place, was arrested by the Kempei Tai. He was tortured until he was forced to tell the Kempei Tai where the group had its headquarters and subsequently the Kempei Tai picked up the four men at Et-Et.

Source made inquiries at Kindayaza in 1944 to find out why the Kempei Tai happened to arrest Saw Kin Maung. He got information at Kindayaza from a man named Saw Kee, the same man who gave source the information about the first group, and who is well known to source and considered by him to be reliable. This man was one of those who gave every assistance he could to the first group, taking food and supplies to their hiding place. Saw Kee is an elephant owner.

Sometime before the arrest of the second group at Et-Et, the radio equipment had broken down and they could not fix it without some spare parts. Saw Kin Maung was aware of this fact and went to Kindayaza on elephant business because he had heard that there was another group at Kindayaza who might have radio parts. He called at the house of Saw Kee, ostensibly to discuss elephant trading, and Saw Kin Maung told Saw Kee about the group at Et-Et and asked whether radio parts could be obtained from the group at Kindayaza. He was informed that the Kindayaza group had no radio.

This conversation was apparently overheard by someone else in the house. Source was not able to find out who this person was. However, he reported the conversation to the Kempei Tai, who subsequently arrested Saw Kin Maung at his village.

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[redacted]

[illegible] followed them to Kindayaung, but [illegible] received advance warning [illegible] of the villagers until they were ready to give [illegible] whereabouts of the rest [illegible] captured by the Kempei Tai, who [illegible] in the vicinity of Kindayaung. [illegible] named Po Kha was the man who [illegible] group to the Kempei Tai. To the [illegible] Myitta that he had in fact told the Japanese about [illegible] was because he had witnessed their torturing of [illegible] who is the head man at Kindayaung. (Note: One old man [illegible] Yapu died of torture rather than tell the Japanese where the party had gone.) Source believes that Po Sin did not betray the group, but that it was his brother-in-law, a [illegible] ser for the Burma Government. Po Sha also told the villagers at Kindayaung that this brother-in-law, Saw Kya, was the man who told the Kempei Tai where to find the agents. Source added that Saw Kya was among those sent by the Japanese to aid in the investigation. Inasmuch as this is a suspicion he would hardly have been expected to undertake in the normal course of his duties as a health officer, this fact clearly strengthens the suspicion that he was the man who betrayed the group's hiding place.

The villagers meanwhile succeeded in keeping the secret of Roderick's whereabouts until he died in March 1944 of a stomach ailment. After his death, the villagers reported the location of his grave to the Kempei Tai, who disinterred his body in order to assure themselves of the fact that he was really dead. Source acquired his knowledge of these details from the villagers at Kindayaung and Kalainaung when he was visiting there in November 1944.

A second group of four agents came in by sea plane and landed in rubber boats on Tavoy Island in December 19[illegible]. All four of these men were Karens. One of them was Saw Maung Shwe, a former officer of the Burma Military Police. Source does not know the names of the other three men. They stayed for an indefinite period at the village of Mali, where they were given shelter by a Baptist pastor named Thra Shwee Han.

After several weeks they were taken by the villagers of Mali across to the mainland where they established themselves at the Karen village of Ei-Ei (PT [illegible], Sheet NBX). There they were given shelter by another Baptist minister, Thra Shwee Ping. This man, incidentally, took over his

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[redacted]

[redacted]

Sources had, [redacted] information [redacted] agents who [redacted] period from October 1943 to March 1944.

The first group was dropped from a plane and all [redacted] members of the group landed in the sea near the village of [redacted] which is just opposite Kyo (?) Island. (See [redacted] They lost all of their equipment but managed to [redacted] at the village of Thabyu. A Japanese [redacted] village sheltered them for one night. The next day they traveled [redacted] foot paths southeast to the Karen village of Sankyaw [redacted] Indian, a Mr. Rodericks, one Indian and two others whose [redacted] is not known to source.

The village headman of Sankyaw, Saw George, [redacted] hid them for two days and then sent them on to the [redacted] village of Tapu (PR 890840, Sheet 88J).

Meanwhile, the parachutes had washed up on the [redacted] village of Thabyu, where they were found by [redacted] the villagers who took them to the Japanese Kempei Tai [redacted] came to Thabyu and tortured the Burmese [redacted] given shelter to the party until they forced him to [redacted] which direction they had gone. He was unable to [redacted] information other than that they had proceeded [redacted]

The Kempei Tai immediately suspected the Karen villagers [redacted] sent representatives to investigate in all Karen vil[redacted] in the area. However, they did not succeed immediately [redacted] any additional information about the location [redacted] group as they set up a radio location unit somewhere in [redacted] while southeast of Tapu in the hope that they might in[redacted] radio signals from the group and thereby locate the [redacted] of their radio. However, the group had left their [redacted] in the sea and were not sending any signals. Consequently the [redacted] did not give the Kempei Tai any assistance [redacted] the group.

[redacted] time later the Kempei Tai by chance happened on [redacted] people in Tapu who were sheltering the four men. The [redacted] thereupon warning of this development and moved down [redacted] Kawkareik (PJ 100000) three miles north of Kalaingma [redacted] visited by agents in November 1944), the Kempei

[redacted]

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
SOUTH EAST ASIA

Registry Number

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attached Reports from Burma

TO: Major General William J. Donovan
Director, Office of Strategic Services

THRU: Strategic Services Officer, I-B Theater

1. Attached reports and documents brought out in the course of one of our operations along the Tenasserim Coast of Burma are transmitted to you on the possibility that you might find them interesting simply as a human document. Whatever value they may have as military and political intelligence is already being exploited here.

2. Attachments consist of:

(a) Report on capture and execution of three earlier OSS parties; and

(b) A series of letters from Christian Karens in the area addressed to Dr. Sutton, a former missionary attached to our organization.

3. There is perhaps a very slight American interest in the fate of the Karen people owing to the extensive development of American missionary activities there before the war.

For the CHIEF:

E. L. Taylor

E. L. TAYLOR
Lt. Commander, USNR
Intelligence Officer

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